

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 remain for consideration, and all claims are thought to be allowable over the cited art.

Claims 1-21 are not obvious 35 under USC §103(a) over US patent 5,136,647 to Haber et al. ("Haber") in view of US patent 6,006,227 to Freeman et al. ("Freeman"). The rejection is respectfully traversed because *prima facie* obviousness is not established. The rejection fails to show that all the limitations are suggested by the combination, fails to provide evidence in support of a motivation to combine the references, and fails to show that the teachings of the references could be combined with a reasonable likelihood of success.

For ease of reference, independent claims 1 and 17 include limitations that relate to obtaining respective time-stamp certificates for a plurality of documents, the documents and the certificates having associated identifiers; building a database of document identifiers and associated certificate identifiers; and storing the documents and the certificates.

The response to the first Office Action raised the issue of whether the that Office Action addressed the limitations of building a database of document identifiers and associated certificate identifiers given the Office Action's lack of citations to specific, allegedly corresponding elements of Freeman. The rejection now alleges that "Freeman's database in Fig. 1 shows the association of the time stamp certifications (e.g., item 100 which represents the iconized depiction of the time certificate), and the document identifier, as the database allows each document to be retrieved based on an identification of the document." It is respectfully submitted that the current Office Action still does not show that these limitations are suggested by Freeman. Specifically, the Office Action does not appear to recognize the distinctions of a *document* versus a *document identifier* and a *time-stamp certificate* versus a *certificate identifier*.

The terms *document* and *document identifier* and *time-stamp certificate* and *certificate identifier* are all used distinctly

in the claims. Furthermore, the figures and written description make clear that these terms refer to distinct, but related, information. A database is built using the document identifiers and associated certificate identifiers, and additionally the documents and certificates are stored. The cited element 100 of Freeman's FIG. 1 shows a browse card that helps a user identify a document by providing the user some idea of the document's contents in a small window. The browse card appears when the user touches a document in the stream display and may include the first non-trivial words in the document and apparently a timestamp. (col. 7, l. 64 - col. 8, l. 10). Freeman appears to show the timestamp itself, but not a distinct timestamp identifier. Furthermore, there does not appear to be a database of timestamp certificate identifiers that are associated with document identifiers.

In the previous Office Action, the alleged motivation for combining the references was that "it would facilitate organized storage of certified documents, thereby enabling an administrator to verify an audit trail." In the current Office Action, this alleged motivation is supplemented with, Freeman "explicitly pointed out the advantage of the database used in the invention and the visual display of chronological metaphor of documents (col. 2, lines 1-45)." "Given that a person of ordinary skill in the art with the Haber et al. patent that taught the "time-stamping" and storage of digital documents would have appreciated the benefit of the features taught by the prior art of Freeman et al." Even supplemented, the alleged motivation does not support a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

The new alleged motivation states that Freeman points out the advantage of a database. However, the cited col. 2, ll. 1-45 do not appear to reference a database of certificate identifiers and associated document identifiers. Furthermore, the alleged motivation is still conclusory because the motivation simply concludes that one skilled in the art "would have appreciated the features" taught by Freeman. As with the previous Office Action, the current Office does not provide

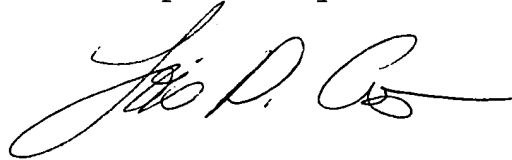
evidence that Haber's system is a type of system for which Freeman's streaming would be useful. Specifically, Haber's system relates to secure timestamping of a document, and no evidence is provided in support of a motivation to modify Haber with teachings of Freeman.

Allegations and rejections made in the first Office Action and not specifically addressed in this Response are traversed by way of reference to the arguments made in the previously filed Response.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested in view of the Remarks presented above. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

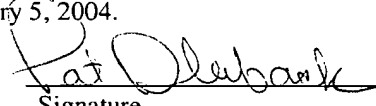
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patent, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on February 5, 2004.

Pat Slaback
Name



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